



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

**18 FEBRUARY 2021**

### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

#### **(U) Los Angeles – UCLA Student Arrested for Alleged Participation in US Capitol Riots**

(U) Christian Secor, a UCLA undergraduate student, was arrested at his residence in Costa Mesa, California on Tuesday after being charged with five crimes, including Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct on US Capitol Grounds and Obstructing an Official Proceeding. Secor allegedly participated in the 6 January riots in Washington, DC, where hundreds forcibly entered the US Capitol in an attempt to overturn the presidential election results in favor of former President Donald Trump. According to an arrest affidavit, Secor wore a “Make America Great Again” hat and held a blue flag with the slogan “America First” on the Senate floor during the riots. Secor also helped force open a door that was blocked by police officers, which allowed dozens of rioters to enter the Capitol, according to the affidavit. After the riots, Secor moved back to his mother’s house in Orange County and got rid of his phone and car, according to a person interviewed by the FBI.

SOURCE: 17 February 2021, [Daily Bruin](#)

#### **(U) Sacramento – California DMV Hit by Data Breach**

(U) The California Department of Motor Vehicles is alerting drivers of a security breach that may have leaked up to 20 months of sensitive personal information. A billing contractor, the Seattle-based Automatic Funds Transfer Services, was afflicted by a ransomware attack in early February. Media reports that the affected data includes 20 months' worth of California vehicle registration records, including names, addresses, license plate numbers and vehicle identification numbers (VINs), dating back to at least June 2019. The DMV assured that other data, including Social Security numbers, immigration status, and birth dates, were not part of the leak.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [SF Gate](#)

### **(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

#### **(U) Texas – US Border Patrol Rescues 200 Migrants Along Border**

(U) Marfa – Border Patrol agents in the Big Bend Sector are working through the winter storm to save lives of many migrants found to have been abandoned by smugglers. The Border Patrol said the winter storm has prolonged freezing temperatures between Sierra Blanca and Van Horn, covering the area in snow in a region where many migrants are attempting to enter the US illegally. Border Patrol agents in the region have rescued more than 200 people from the area, many of whom called 911 or flagged down motorists after being abandoned by smugglers. Around 10 people were admitted to area hospitals for exposure, frostbite, or other medical conditions, and one person was found dead after likely succumbing to the harsh elements. Those who have been rescued have been from Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

SOURCE: 17 February 2021, [KFOX 14](#)

### **(U) NATIONAL**

#### **(U) District of Columbia – DHS Confirms Neo-Nazi Leader Used to be Employed by Department**

(U) Washington DC – DHS has confirmed it once employed Rinaldo Nazzaro, an American neo-Nazi group

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leader now based in Russia, after he posted what he said were letters of appreciation that DHS and the Pentagon sent him thanking him for his service. Nazzaro, 47, founder and leader of the Base, one of the most violent American domestic terror groups in years, posted the letters on Telegram to legitimize himself with the far right, members of which have questioned his military career. Nazzaro continues to maintain that the Base is not a terrorist organization, but a “survivalism and self-defense network for nationalists.”

SOURCE: 16 February 2021, [Vice](#)

### **(U) District of Columbia – US Government Seizes More Than 10 Million Fake N95 Masks**

(U) Washington DC – Federal agents have seized more than 10 million fake 3M brand N95 masks in recent weeks, the result of an ongoing investigation into counterfeits sold in at least five states to hospitals, medical facilities, and government agencies. The most recent seizures occurred Wednesday when Homeland Security agents intercepted hundreds of thousands of counterfeit 3M masks in an East Coast warehouse that were set to be distributed. Investigators also notified about 6,000 potential victims in at least 12 states including hospitals, medical facilities, and others who may have unknowingly purchased knockoffs, urging them to stop using the medical-grade masks. Officials encouraged medical workers and companies to go to 3M's website for tips on how to spot fakes. Homeland Security officials would not say which states the phony masks were sent to, but said criminal charges would be forthcoming.

SOURCE: 17 February 2021, [AP News](#)

### **(U) Florida – FBI, Other Agencies Issue Warnings After Oldsmar Water System Attack**

(U) Oldsmar – An advisory published by the FBI, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) offered new insights on how an attacker may have accessed a system that allowed them to potentially contaminate Oldsmar's water supply. The federal advisory offered two possible ways the attacker accessed the system: poor password security and outdated Windows software. Last week, an unidentified attacker significantly increased levels of lye in the Oldsmar water treatment system remotely. An employee intervened when they realized the attack was happening when their mouse began moving across the screen.

SOURCE: 17 February 2021, [Tampa Bay Times](#)

### **(U) New York – New York City's Top Drug Enforcement Agent Says Pandemic Exacerbated Opioid Crisis**

(U) New York City – In 2020, there was a 214% increase in methamphetamine seized and a 59% increase in fentanyl seized, compared to the year before in New York City. Officials believe the pandemic has exacerbated the opioid crisis because of social isolation and not having access to health care facilities or treatment facilities. Both drugs are synthetic, which allows cartels to make an unlimited supply. The chemicals for the drug production originate in China, are synthesized in Mexico, and then smuggled into the US with New York as the destination.

SOURCE: 17 February 2021, [CBS Local](#)

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Germany – Police Crack Down on Arab and Chechen Organized Crime Families**

(U) Berlin – Several hundred police and special forces officers raided more than 20 locations in Berlin and Brandenburg on Thursday as part of an investigation into organized crime, arms and drug trafficking, and extortion. The raid is the result of an investigation by the Federal Criminal Police Department and tax investigation authorities in Berlin and Brandenburg following a clash between Arab and Chechen groups last November. At that time, there were several violent confrontations between the two organizations. The targets of the raid were members of a criminal family previously convicted

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for performing museum heists.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [Seattle Times](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

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